

70th Anniversary of the Society for International Folk Dancing



SIFD News



December 2016



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Happy Christmas

To all in the SIFD

It's time for a note of appreciation to Dalila Heath for getting the News out, through the post and electronically throughout 2016, she is a very busy lady and much appreciated. Also appreciated are the many resources, articles and photos sent in this year from members. Thanks, too, to Roy Clarke for 'Past Pages' which was so interesting it inspired me to read through old issues and take it a bit further. Fiona Howarth (2013) and Caroline Thomas (2009) grace our front cover this month, also a group of angels from Fiona's class. On the back page is a photo the Barlow group children, dancing (with real sticks) at the SIFD 60th Anniversary Party for children.

Ed.



SIFD Monthly Dance

SIFD Monthly Dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre,
29 Hopkinsons Place, Fitzroy Road London NW1 8TN
Sunday 4th December 7pm -9.45pm

The pre-Christmas dance will be a programme of requests. You can add your favourite dance by emailing Jeanette Hull,
jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk

Anne Maddocks



Balkanplus

The December Balkanplus will be held on the 10th December at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs will be Zivko Firfov. Admission £6.

Maureen Felton

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jan.14: BALKANPLUS** MCs will be Jill Bransby & Rainmakers
- S.I **Jan.28: OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY** St.Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road, (off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN. 7-10:30. Food & drink provided. Music: CDs & Dunav. Tickets at the door: Adults: £10 children under 14: £3.00; children under 4: free. Wear a costume if you would like to. For more information email: *sallylhumphrey@gmail.com* or *charlotte@haenlein.co.uk*
- S.I **Feb.4: BALKANPLUS** - MC tba, but please note this is the 1st Saturday in February.
- S.I **Feb. 8 - 13: RIVIERADANCE! 2017** Res. Folk dance holiday with Yves Moreau (Bulgarian and Balkan), Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion (Romanian). Int. folk dances with France Bourque-Moreau, singing, music-making, drumming, walking and sight-seeing. 5 nights full board Torquay. £470 (full-days) or £400 (half-days) res. Dance course; £310 for non-dancing friends & family. Contact Cathy Meunier email *cathy_meunier@hotmail.com* website: *www.balkanfolkdance.org* or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX
- S.I **Feb. 10 - 11: BALKAN INSTRUMENTAL DAY COURSE** with Maya Buckley. Fri. pm & Sat. 10am-5pm & 8:30pm-10:30pm. £30 (no charge for hotel residents on the Rivieradance! 2017 holiday). All instruments welcome. Resources for the course will be provided in advance. Pre-booking is essential. Please contact Cathy Meunier (see above)
- S.I **Apr. 8: DANCE WITH DALILA IN DERBYSHIRE** a day of mainly Armenian dances at Calver Village Hall, Calver S32 3XR 10.30 - 16.30. Further details and to book contact Janet King (01629 57065) or email *j.king194@btinternet.com*. Cost for the day £12.
- S.I **Apr. 28-May 1: SIFD WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor, N. Somerset. weekend of Folk Dancing led by Janet Woolbar & Music led by Stella Wentworth. With guided walks & freedom to discover the local area. For Info. Contact Robin & Judy Morris – *robinnimbo@aol.com* or 01564773482 - 07966785172

Apr. 28 - May 1: EASTBOURNE INT. FOLK FESTIVAL contact Maureen: 01823 401271. "Early Bird" tickets - £85 (saving £15) available until January 12th

S.I May 5 - 8: GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND Warwickshire near Alcester, (Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon) International Dancing with our special guest Nel van der Laan from the Netherlands. Other varied dancing, music, handbells, Maypole, singing, walking and cycling. For further information see :www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.

Jun. 10: A DAY OF (MOSTLY) ARMENIAN DANCES with Dalila Heath in Derbyshire. 10.30-4.30 at Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Rd, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AX. £12 Please book: Gill Seller 01246 410020 or ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com



*Events covered by SIFD insurance are marked S.I.
Please remember that the onus is on **you** to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.*



SIFD West Midlands Branch Weekend

S.I Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd Oct 2017

with Cathy Meunier at Willersley Castle Hotel, Cromford, Nr. Matlock, Derbys.

More details and booking in the New Year. email Maggie Kaye (margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk) to register your interest.

Maggie Kaye



Dance Around The World

I was lucky enough to get to some of Dance Around The World this year. As usual there were different workshops going on in Trefusis and Storrow; I enjoyed learning two new dances and filling in style details of familiar ones at the Portuguese workshop led by Elsa Perez and the Iberian group (*pictured below in their costumes from Minho*).

I could see the workshops in Storrow were well attended - actually they looked so full I wandered off in search of photographic fodder.



However, the main focus of the weekend was in Kennedy where the performances by a wide variety of groups took place. I watched belly dancing, Portuguese, African, Historic English, Olde Morris and Chinese dancers from three different regions. The Beskdy Dancers showed dances and costumes from regions of Slovakia and Czechia; the dances were slick and practised, and so was their quick change routine.

Whenever a gap in the programme occurred there was an impromptu dance session for all to join in - so there was never a dull moment.



*above: The Beskdy Dancers in the first of five different costumes,
and Chinese dancers (below)*



I'm sure that Saturday was just as good - I wish I'd been free to attend.
Janet Douglas

Letters

Dear Janet,

You write in the ‘**News of the Nineties**’ (November News, page 6) that ‘members were too busy enjoying themselves to concern themselves about the day to day running of the Society.’ It might have seemed that way from your reading of the SIFD News during that period but I can assure you and our members that some of us on the Committee were working really hard to keep the Society financially afloat. Indeed during the 90s we achieved enormous change, partly brought about by the lack of financial stability.

We were told by our treasurer (Judith Payling) in 1991 (when I took over as Chairperson) that without positive action the Society would not survive to reach its 50th year. We were forced to change procedures to save money on administration and publicity. We introduced a budgeting system with detailed forecasts so that we could manage our limited resources to the best effect. (I remember a discussion with Lily Avery about getting her typewriter mended (we couldn’t afford a new typewriter!) so she could continue to hammer out the News, although we did cancel an August edition to save money.)

This stringency freed us from the world of commercial printers and typesetters to the new world of home computers so we could produce materials ourselves and focus on more effective channels of communication. This meant more work for us. We recycled and repackaged material for a cheaply produced teaching resource, *Dancing into Europe*, aimed at a school market. Again this meant more work but extra money for the Society.

You included Marina Wolstenholme’s excellent article about style. She was on our Committee as ‘our member from Sheffield’, as we tried to become less London based. The emphasis on style and teaching methods was something else we were preoccupied with which led us to ask Jan Knoppers to train some of our aspiring teachers using the methods of the Dutch Folk Dance organisation. This gave confidence and ideas to a new generation of teachers, Jeanette Hull being one of them.

The Society held its first AGM out of London in Birmingham in 1993 (the West Midland's Branch's 20th Anniversary year).

Another attempt to get out of London was to hold dance rehearsals in Birmingham, ably led by Frances Horrocks, for our Romanian display Hai La Joc (for the CCPR's Spotlight on Dance) which had 11 participating groups perform at the Royal Albert Hall in 1995.

We used our groups to publicise the Society at other big events such as Dance Worlds 94, 95, 96 (Barbican, Olympia and Wembley), Ballroom Blitz at The Festival Hall and regional dance events. Our involvement with the Eastbourne Festival increased during this period.

We had conducted a Strategy Review in 1993 and noted that the Society's success as an umbrella organisation had increased with more groups than ever allied to the Society and more events organised all over the country. We considered how to use this great strength to enable growth and further development of the Society. I believe that the present Committee has returned to this issue. There seems a sort of irony that the present Committee has secure financial resources, thanks now to many generous legacies, but not enough personal time to achieve all their ideas.

I stepped down as Chairperson after 4 years as I felt I had made my contribution and wanted to have my life back! Jeanette stood as acting Chairperson for the Golden Anniversary Year – 1996 and became Chairperson for the first time a year later. Perhaps she might like to pick up the story of the 90s from her viewpoint?

It is a compliment to the hard working committees of the 90s that the SIFD seemed to float serenely on, while there was so much paddling beneath the surface. It was a time of major change which strengthened the Society for the long term, while being true to the aims and objectives set out in 1946.

Jill Bransby



I would like to wish all members of the SIFD, in particular, Heart of England a happy Christmas and New Year.
Keep Dancing in 2017, love from

Susan Chetwynd



SIFD Shopping Bag

.....why not give one as a Christmas present?



The price is £6.

The bags are 100% cotton, in navy blue cotton, with a design using our feet logo in two shades of blue and white.

They measure 37cm x 43cm, with long handles.

They are hand washable.

You can buy by post (cheques payable to SIFD) from Judith Payling (see address in this News).

To the bag cost add postage and packing as follows:

£1.20 for 1 or 2 bags

£2.40 for 3 or 4 bags

£2.85 for 5 or more bags, up to 10.

Or email Judith with your order (not forgetting to include your address!) and send your total remittance electronically to the SIFD's account with CAF Bank, number 00016902, sort code 40-52-40. As a reference state BAG and your name.

Judith Payling

Dance & cultural tour to the Turquoise coast in Turkey



1st - 8th May 2017 with Ahmet Turan Demirbag, Professor of traditional dance at Istanbul University and Turgay Onatli.

Daily dance classes with local teachers, some with live music. Visit to the traditional village of Cormakdag-Milas where people still wear traditional dress. Trip to Fethiye and to visit to see local dance group.

Historical and nature trips. Boat tour around the islands.

Accommodation in comfortable local hotel with swimming pool.

Flights are to Dalaman and are available from many local airports.

Non dancing participants are also very welcome.

For more details contact Chrisandra Harris, Chrisandra@tesco.net
Tel. 0115 9554962

Chrisandra Harris



Serbian Dance weekend with Vladica & Sasha

Over the years there have been magic dancing events emanating from the SIFD. My first encounter with its magic was the occasion (while I was at College) when I decided the Ilkley College Conference event was unmissable, so without any hesitation I hitched a lift - lucky enough the generous stranger drove me to the front door!!! (Aah those were the days -1955!! - before I had met Frances (Horrocks et al), I was lucky enough to be included in the Rudolph Laban part of the course (Lisa Uhlmann, too). One of the visiting speakers was Bert Price, (RIP with Margery Latham) so no surprise that I was dancing into the night and soon signed up for the SIFD! Totally 'hooked'.

Until motherhood I never missed a 'Swansea week' under the magic wand of Jack Richardson and lovely supportive wife Joan. Canford weeks were also very special too - I led a group from college and met Frances Horrocks (also at college then). Can't believe we swam early in the morning and late in the evening - Frances was a super diver! She still remembers my somersaults from the dormitory doorway onto my bed. I just couldn't keep still in those days. So many laughs all the time. One night I even stayed up dancing with the American teacher who just kept going over tricky bits - nonstop dancing for hours. We even had a little drink and snack in the kitchen before retiring (not long before dawn!) All so free and easy.

As well as the SIFD dancing fortnight at Canford, there was a very special workshop for musicians events including all sorts of magic names like Yehudi Menuhin, lovely lecture and performance from Cleo Lane and Johnny Dankworth etc. etc. Everywhere you went in the grounds or mansion music filled the air.

Later on there were regular visits from Dutch dance teachers - usually specialising in one particular style and inevitably courses in Holland as well. Great that songs began to feature regularly as well and trips abroad (particularly to Romania and Bulgaria), not just London and Swansea, Manchester (Julie Korth & Marina etc.) Cathy Meunier expanded to a wide variety of venues too.

Brian, after introducing us to regular visits from Yves Moreau and Cristian and Sonia etc. has now introduced another STAR!! Well really two - **VLADICA & SASHA from Serbia**. You have no idea the total magic of being addressed as Diki and Sula the minute we approached dear Vladica, before the session began. He actually remembered us from the fleeting visit he made in 2004 with ensembles up in Manchester!! At first I thought it was a sort of practical joke and Brian had told him our names, but NO, he GENUINELY remembered us from the ever so short visit in 2004!!

We in the SIFD have been extremely lucky over the years to have danced with so many wonderful teachers, BUT Vladica really is a bit special. Sula and I have NEVER come across a teacher SO utterly and totally relaxed and able to laugh and make us all laugh almost all the time - while ensuring that we really did achieve accurately. The total relaxation, enjoyment, interested absorption in all our efforts was amazing. It did not escape my notice how unobtrusively he helped out too, whenever anyone went off beat or missed a step etc. I had such a nasty cough etc. I DID feel a bit tired and off beat now and again, but not to worry - in seconds there he was dancing in front, making it easy to get back on track again. His attention and focus on ALL OF US was immaculate - hugely impressive.

Literally he was dancing, singing and playing - the drum - nonstop and with huge enjoyment and plenty of variation ALL THE TIME! At the evening 'party' he led dances for everyone to join in - NOT course ones which then turns it into more of a performance. Everything always accessible. It was great to see Nada's Serbian Group again. (Zivko Firfov used to go regularly each year as did Dunav.) Their performance was great - so full of vigour, energy, and enjoyment. They did it in two halves so a change of costume to go with change of region. It was SO great to see them all again and have a chat with Nada. Super. Yes it really was a very special Balkanplus - hugely enjoyable.

Sorry - as usual over enthusiastic as ever.... But it really was a super weekend. Extra lovely their prowess in English too - Vladica even showed enthusiasm to add to his vocabulary. They really are a very

continued overleaf >

special duo. HUGE THANKS to Brian for introducing them - their energy, enjoyment, pleasure was unflagging - both of them playing and singing constantly - Vladica dancing totally nonstop all day long AND now and again letting rip with wonderful extra variations - embroidery with his feet. A wonderful 'extra' was the laughter and fun they exuded. Endless Magic!!

I am sure their Serbian dancing holiday will fill up speedily. It takes place 4th -14th August 2017. Full board, tours, music and dance lessons 650 Euros. Full details from Brian or urke2007@gmail.com or aleksandar.smrekic@gmail.com Bound to be MAGIC!!!

Diki Gleeson



Der Lüstiger

Austrian

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



What I found for **Der Lüstiger**: six men, each wearing one leg of tights and sharing the other leg with his neighbour (the tights in alternate white and dark purple) then sitting, swinging legs and walking to a raucous folk song. The audience found it hilarious but was it 'our' Der Lüstiger?

Next month the music for **Postvierer** from Germany - please help! **Ed.**

SIFD Committee

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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER



- S.I **Sunday 4th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** see page 3
- S.I **Friday 9th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** with music by Dunav
8pm at Church House, Wood St. Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW £6 incl.
food & wine. Contact: Brian on 01992 582717 *bvdowsett@aol.com*
- S.I **Saturday 10th BALKANPLUS** - see page 3
- S.I **Wednesday 14th W. MIDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY**
hosted by Heart of England IFDG 8.00-10.15. St. Giles Church Hall,
Church Road, Sheldon, Solihull. B26 3TT (near M42 Jn 5/6) New big
carpark at back of hall! Heart of England Band. Bring-&-share supper
Wear costume if you wish. £3 on the door. All welcome. More info
from Maggie Kaye: *margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk* or 0797-464-9311
- S.I **Thursday 29th TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY** at Stone Cross
Memorial Hall, nr Eastbourne BN24 5EH. 10.30 - 4.30. £8 (half day
£5). Shared lunch, drinks provided. Bring own CDs or just dance.
Rowena Martin 01323 503991. *rowenahmartin@hotmail.com*



*All material for the January issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the
Editor in writing by the *16th December**